



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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Online Emergency Preparedness Physician Training Is Available

BALTIMORE, MD (February 22, 2005) -- The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the Maryland Board of Physicians, and several private sector partners have modified the Maryland Board of Physicians Volunteer Corps training program to allow participants to view presentations on-line. Previous volunteer training consisted of a four-five hour series of live lectures.

Each of the five on-line presentations is approximately 45 minutes long and can be viewed at separate times. The program is designed for physicians, physician assistants, radiology technicians and respiratory care professionals enrolled to be part of the state's Emergency Preparedness Team.

Dr. Harry C. Knipp, chairman of the Maryland Board of Physicians, encourages all of the Board's licensees to participate in this valuable and informative program, particularly in its convenient new online format.

"Maryland's health care providers have always had the best interest of our fellow citizens at heart," Dr. Knipp said. "This concern will never be more important to our state and country than in a time of natural disaster or terrorist attack. Advance preparation will make a significant difference in our ability to prevail if such tragedies occur."

Joint sponsors of the training program include MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, the MidAtlantic Public Health Training Center, and the Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health Preparedness.

Physicians and allied health practitioners interested in volunteering for emergency preparedness training and serving as a member of the emergency response team should contact the Board's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Jen Zucco at 410-764-4762 or jzucco@dhmh.state.md.us.

More information about the program is available at the Board's Emergency Preparedness Web site at http://www.mbp.state.md.us/pages/emergency_prep.html. This site offers instructions and requirements to become a volunteer, information about the Corps, and useful links regarding bioterrorism.

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